

March 13, 2009

Dear Interested Parties:

In my role as Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, I've emphasized the importance of the growing markets for organic, locally grown and sustainable agriculture as exciting new opportunities in agriculture and rural development. I would like to invite you to attend a meeting I am sponsoring on **Friday, April 17, 2009 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.** to inform my constituents about programs available in the 2008 Farm Bill that addresses these opportunities.

The meeting will be held simultaneously at four 7<sup>th</sup> District locations as noted below and all locations will be connected by ITV. Representatives from USDA Rural Development and members of my U.S. House Agriculture Committee staff will explain the various programs in detail, such as the Value Added Producers Grant, Rural Energy for America, Farmers Market Promotion Program, Sustainable Agriculture and Organic Research provisions, etc.

Local food can provide opportunities for profit for farmers and other rural entrepreneurs and main street businesses who want to participate in processing and distributing food. Learn how your community can use USDA programs as engines for economic development that will benefit farmers, rural communities, development organizations, businesses, and individuals. Please consider attending this session at any of the following locations:

**Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall**

Conference Center, Lower Ballroom

[www.southwestmsu.edu/Admission/Registration/map.pdf](http://www.southwestmsu.edu/Admission/Registration/map.pdf)

**University of Minnesota, Crookston**

Bede Ballroom, upper level of Student Center

[www.umcrookston.edu/info/tours/documents/UMC\\_Campus\\_Map\\_Fall\\_2006.pdf](http://www.umcrookston.edu/info/tours/documents/UMC_Campus_Map_Fall_2006.pdf)

**University of Minnesota, Morris**

Media Services, Humanities Fine Arts Building (#58 on map)

[www.morris.umn.edu/visitor](http://www.morris.umn.edu/visitor)

**Bemidji State University**

Deputy Hall, Room #111 (#3 on map)

[http://www.bemidjistate.edu/news\\_info/visitors/map.pdf](http://www.bemidjistate.edu/news_info/visitors/map.pdf)

There is no charge to attend this meeting. We do ask that you RSVP by registering on my website at [http://collinpeterson.house.gov/meeting\\_RSVP.html](http://collinpeterson.house.gov/meeting_RSVP.html), by calling my Red Lake Falls District office at 218-253-4356 or via email at [JoAnn.Zutz@mail.house.gov](mailto:JoAnn.Zutz@mail.house.gov). If you need additional information about the

meeting, please feel to contact my Economic Development Officer, Toni Merdan at 218-849-7344 or visit my website at <http://collinpeteron.house.gov> for the agenda and other materials.

Kind regards,



M.C.

Collin C. Peterson  
Member of Congress

***\*\*This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense\*\****